



16TH EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth : A Sustainable Future for Humanity

**CCD, Dublin, Ireland
8 - 11 November 2023**



RESULTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION

This publication arises from the conference 'EPH 2023 Conference'.
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Summary of main results

A total of 2,328 delegates from 82 countries attended the EPH Conference 2023 held in Dublin, Ireland to discuss and debate the state of global and European health from the perspective of research, methods and practices.

A total of 173 delegates (7,4% of all invitees) filled out the evaluation form.

Overall outcome:

81% of the participants rated the quality of the Dublin 2023 Conference as excellent/good

Networking:

79% of the participants rated the possibilities for meeting colleagues as excellent/good

Participation:

69% participated in parallel programme sessions

19% in plenary sessions

Exhibition:

80% of the respondents confirmed they visited the exhibition area

Abstract submission:

85% rated the information received to submit the abstracts as excellent/good

83% rated the information received to submit the presentation as excellent/good

Conference App and social media

64% of participants rated the App as good/excellent

31% of participants followed EPH2023 on social media

Plans for the Future:

75% of participants will prefer an in-person conference

83% of respondents plan to attend EPH Conference in Lisbon, Portugal

Introduction

The 16th European Public Health Conference was held from 8 to 11 November 2023 and was attended by 2,328 delegates from 82 countries. The conference offered them the opportunity to share their work with colleagues and learn about the state of European health from the perspective of research, policy, education and practices. The conference included 7 plenary sessions, 18 pre-conferences, 120 workshops, 56 oral sessions and 22 poster walks.

During the three conference days, delegates had the opportunity to share findings from research and experiences with innovation in all fields of public health and health services.

The theme of 16th EPH Conference was **‘Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth: A Sustainable Future for Humanity’**. Today, we find ourselves at a crucial turning point in history. The global climate is rapidly deteriorating. The interconnection between food systems, health and earth demands urgent and sustainable action to protect our planet and all its inhabitants. From deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions to water pollution and biodiversity loss, our choices in food production, distribution, and consumption directly affect the Earth's health. Equally concerning is the impact on human health and well-being, with rising rates of diet-related diseases and malnutrition threatening the lives of millions. We now have no way out in terms of climate emergency. We must make choices which will determine the future of our advanced technological civilisation. We know what to do, to deliver a future for our society, but it's less clear that we will do it. In a few weeks' time, COP28 will take place and will hopefully address the urgent need for climate action. In the run-up to COP28, food systems and agriculture have received increasing diplomatic attention. This in itself is a hopeful sign as previous COPs have seen significant political opposition to actions to change food systems and save biodiversity. The current agenda calls on countries to align national food systems with national adaptation plans which include targets for food system decarbonization and biodiversity strategies.

EPH Conference 2023 was organised in collaboration with a vast number of national and international partners.

Each European Public Health Conference is subject to a multi-layered evaluation. The objectives of this evaluation are to learn from our experiences and to improve the organisation of future conferences. This part of the evaluation, the Participants' Evaluation, is made publicly accessible on the conference website.

The results presented here are based on the evaluation by the conference participants. 2,328 participants received two emails shortly after the conference inviting them to evaluate the conference through a web-based questionnaire. A total of 173 delegates (7,4% of all invitees) filled out the evaluation form.

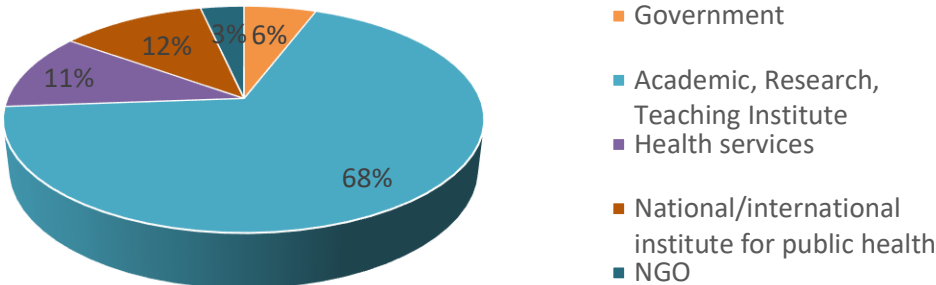
The questionnaire was divided in six parts:

1. Dublin 2023 Conference in general
2. Programme
3. Your attendance
4. Exhibition area
5. Abstract submission
6. Conference App and social media
7. Plans for the future

1. Dublin 2023 Conference in General

EPH Conferences are known for the excellent organisation, the high number of participants and a broad programme covering relevant public health topics. Dublin 2023 was no exception to this with 2,328 delegates, scoring high overall satisfaction by delegates and with a varied programme of plenary sessions, workshops, oral and E-poster presentations and displays.

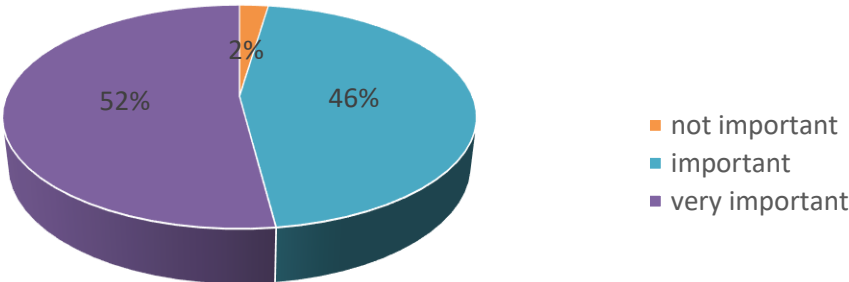
1.1. What is your background/work field?



68% the respondents had a background in research/academia. Otherwise, the professional background of the participants showed a balanced mix of policy, practice and training.

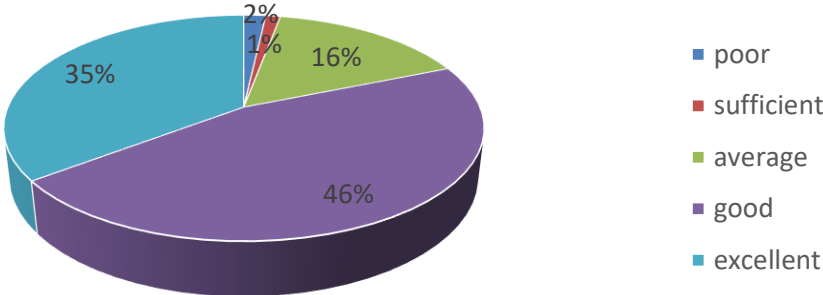
1.2. How would you rate the relevance of the conference for your work?

The theme of the 16th EPH conference was **Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth: A Sustainable Future for Humanity**. 98% of the respondents rated the relevance of the conference as important (and very important) for their work.



1.3. How would you rate the quality of the conference as a whole?

81% of the participants rated the quality of the Dublin 2023 Conference as excellent/good.

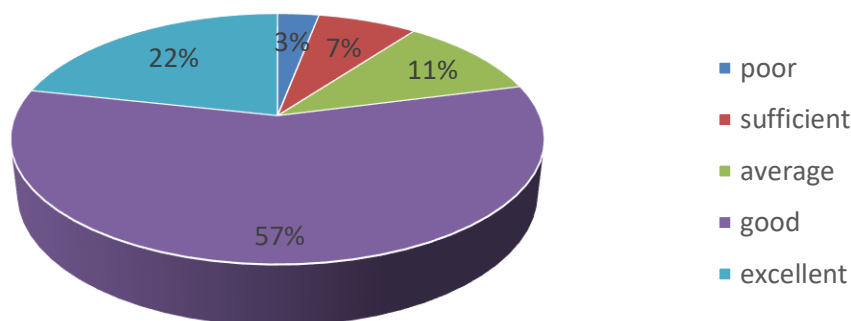


1.4. What lessons from the Dublin 2023 conference do you take home?

The following lessons were specifically mentioned:

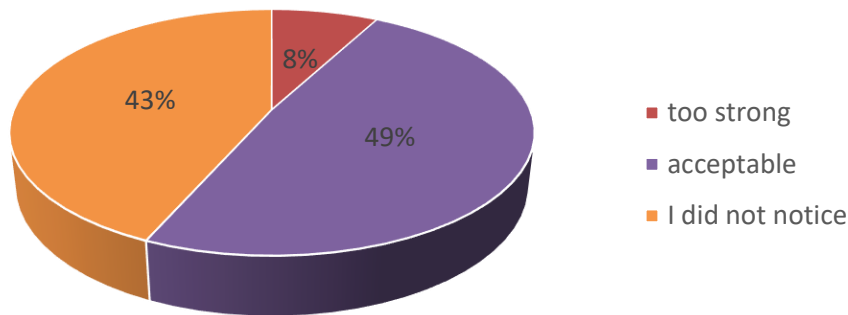
- The need to activate more PH professionals towards common goals
- Sustainability links with European public health
- The role of academia in advocacy and shaping policy in public health
- There is no health without proper safety food and water, clean air and clean environment
- Update on progress with new EAT Lancet planetary health food based guidelines
- Mental health is key for public health
- Relevance of the commercial determinants of health, difficulties of implementing health taxes and ways to overcome those
- Importance of networking
- How to better link public health work to planetary health
- The pre-conference on migrant health was absolutely excellent. Very interesting, included both films, music and exercises which were all extremely valuable. I will remember this day forever, it was so good.
- The concept of One Health is extremely actual and important
- Importance of commercial determinants of health and regulation in relation to this.
- The importance of the climate emergency as a driver of displacement.
- Fabulous community of expert colleagues and an inspiring next generation, new plans for collaboration
- The importance of sustainability in healthcare and the effectiveness of health literacy, both individual and collective
- Artificial Intelligence and digital/mHealth tools are upcoming groundbreaking components in public health field.
- Public health experts can help to change policies that affect the life of the people in the community.
- A lot of information and networking on work that needs to be done in Ireland that has been done elsewhere
- There is a need for interdisciplinary work and most importantly we need to impact policy and action

1.5. Did the conference offer ample time for networking? How would you rate the possibilities for meeting colleagues at EPH2023?



79% of the participants rated the possibilities for meeting colleagues as excellent/good. Only 3% rated this as poor.

1.6. How do you rate the commercial bias in the programme of EPH2023?



92% of the participants rated the commercial bias in the conference programme as acceptable or did not notice them.

1.8. General comments.

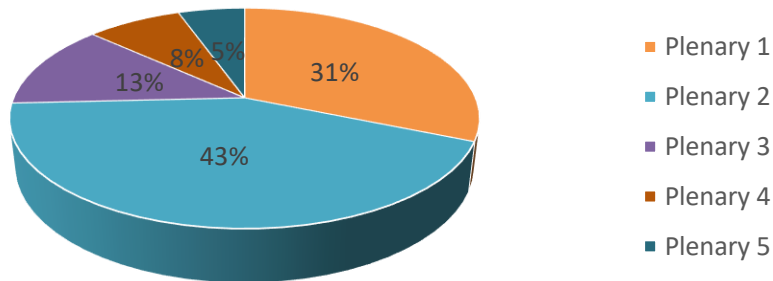
Most comments received appreciated the scientific content and organisation. Participants had in general a very good opinion about the Dublin 2023 Conference.

- Incredible quality of the congress.
- Great idea with offering stretching/yoga/pilates sessions
- Excellent conference and well organised.
- The catering during the conference was rather poor.
- The organization was kind, precise, punctual. All the interventions were appropriate and interesting.
- The moderators were professional and really kind.
- One of the few congresses with almost no commercial bias.
- Excellent thoroughly enjoyable conference. My first time to attend a EPH conference and certainly won't be my last!
- The plenary sessions were less interesting than the parallel sessions.
- The conference was held very effectively and with a complete program. I and my colleagues, members of the delegation returned to our country full of impressions.

2. Dublin 2023 Conference Programme

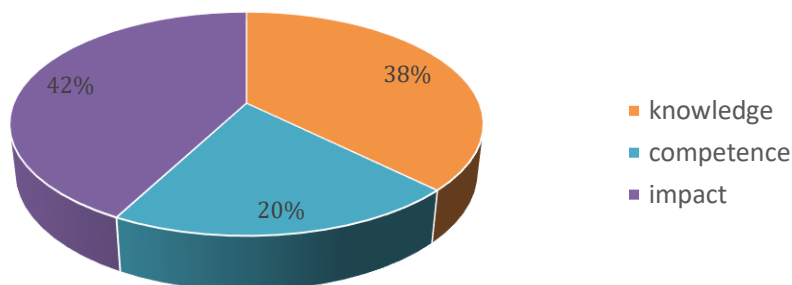
Many different sessions were mentioned as being highly appreciated, which highlights the good quality of the scientific programme. All plenary sessions were mentioned, as well as many workshops, pre-conferences, poster sessions and others.

2.1. Which plenary session was most interesting to you?



2 plenaries were the most interested to participants. 43% respondents indicated Plenary 2: *Commercial determinants of non-communicable diseases: the imperative for a systems approach*. 31% respondents indicated Plenary 1: *Transitioning to more sustainable food systems that support health and wellbeing*.

2.2. Which aspects/domains were mostly influenced by this session?

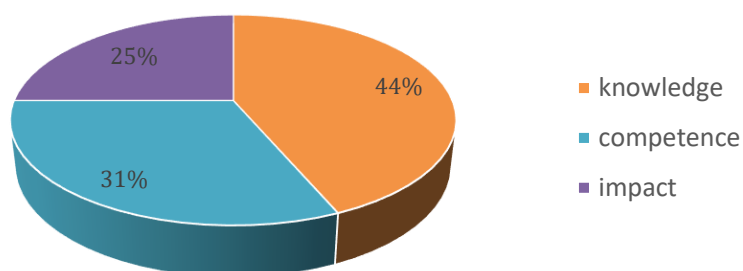


42% of participants indicated impact.

2.3. Which parallel session was most interesting to you?

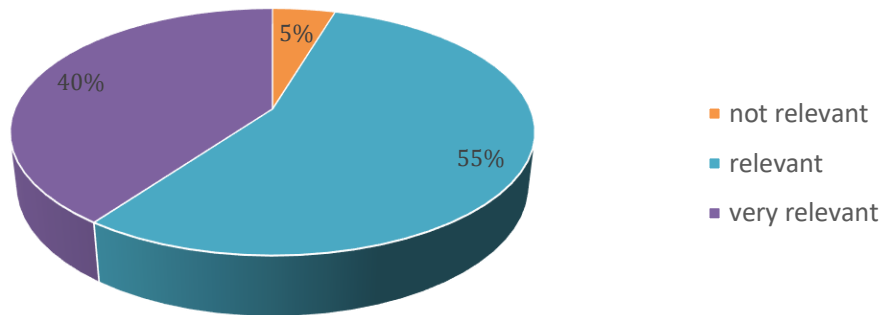
This question cannot be summarised as there were so many sessions were mentioned.

2.4. Which aspects/domains were mostly influenced by this session?



44% of participants indicated knowledge.

2.5. How do you rate the suitability of session formats (workshops, oral, pitch presentations, e-posters)?



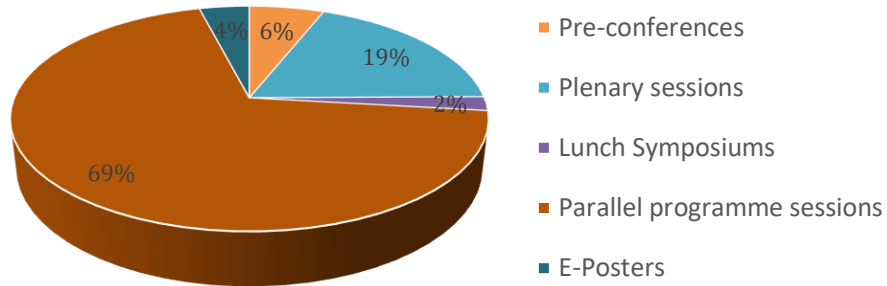
95% of participants rated the suitability of session formats as relevant/very relevant.

2.6. Comments

Participants appreciated high quality of many presenters. They considered parallel sessions as brilliant. However, the plenary sessions were poor in comparison. Some of the panels would have benefited with less opening rehearsed speeches and more interaction with the audience. Posters were not visible. They thought it would be great to develop session formats that allow for a bit more interaction with the audience.

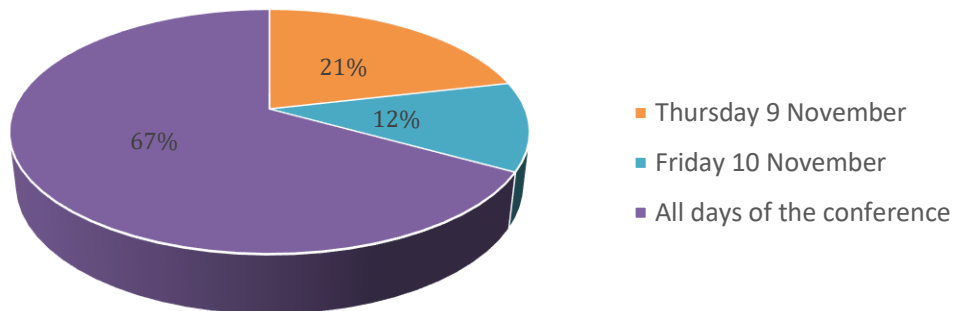
3. Your attendance

3.1. Which sessions of EPH2023 did you attend predominantly?



69% respondents participated in parallel programme sessions, while 19% attended the plenary sessions.

3.2. Which days of the conference did you attend predominantly?



67% respondents participated all days of the conference.

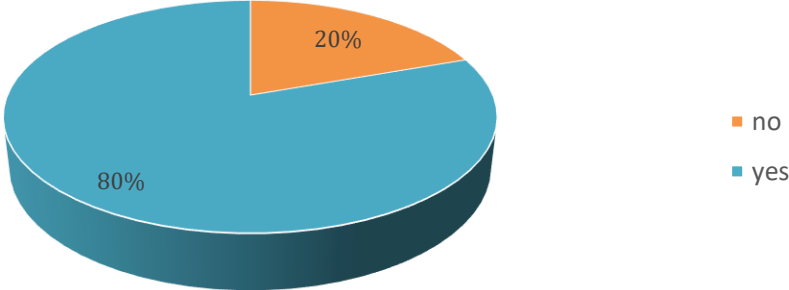
3.3. Comments

Many respondents were impressed with the quality of speakers and they appreciated the strong scientific programme. Each day offered valuable insights and networking opportunities. Some participants complained that too many things were happening at the same time, often with important content. The preconference day was very good.

4. Exhibition area

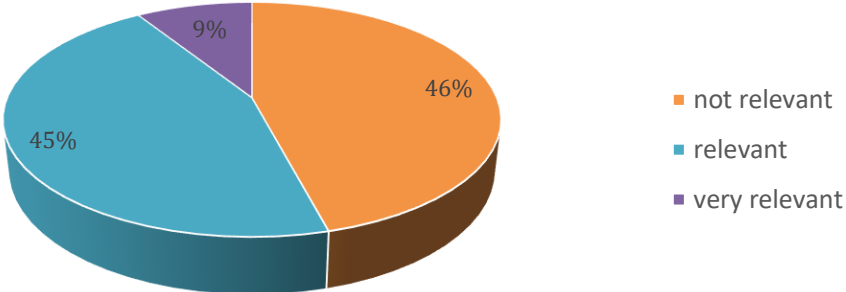
80% of the participants visited the exhibition area

4.1 Did you visit the exhibition area?



80% of the respondents confirmed they visited the exhibition area.

4.2. How relevant was the exhibition for your work?



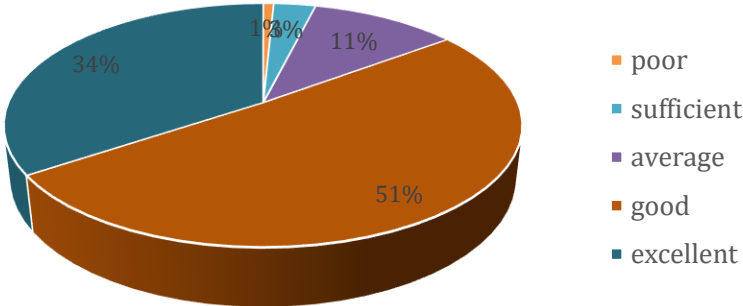
The exhibition stands were seen as very relevant/relevant by 54% respondents.

4.3. Comments

Participants found the exhibition relevant especially in terms of connecting with people. Some participants would appreciate a space to network about job opportunities. The exhibition provided a good opportunity to learn about new tools and services in public health.

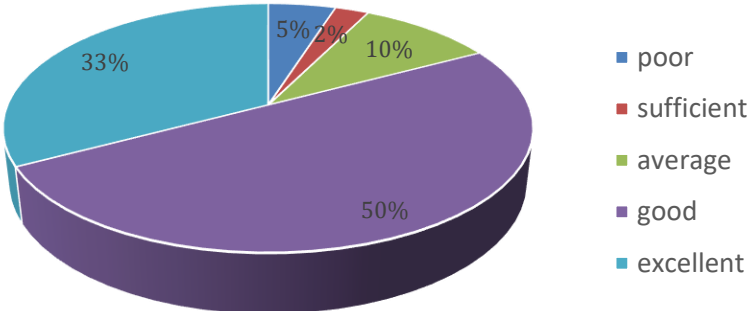
5. Dublin 2023 Abstract submission

5.1. How would you rate the information you received to submit your abstract?



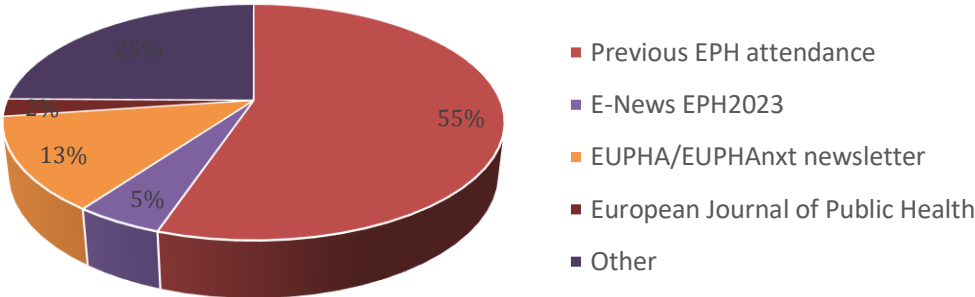
85% of the respondents rated the information received to submit the abstracts as excellent/good.

5.2. How would you rate the information you received to submit your presentation?



83% of the respondents rated the information received to submit the presentation as excellent/good.

5.3. How did you find us when submitting an abstract or registering?



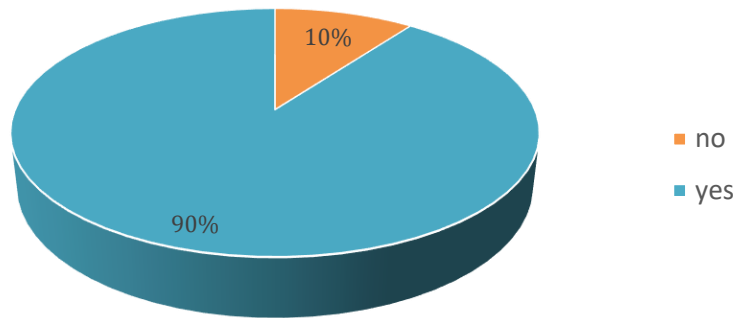
55% of the participants find the EPH Conference from previous attendance.

5.4. Comments

Some general comments mentioned the process was straightforward and well-guided.

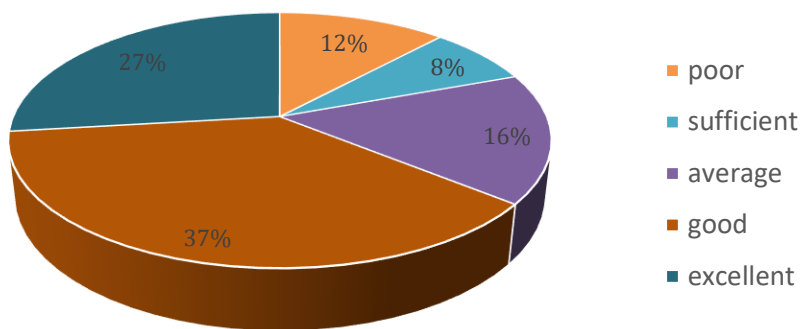
6. Conference App and social media

6.1. Did you download the EPH 2023 Conference App



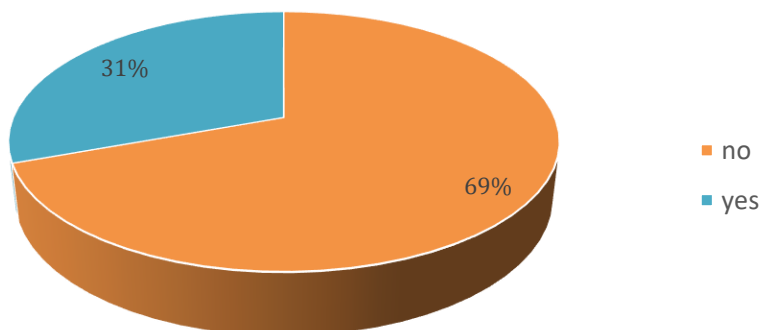
90% of participants installed the EPH Conference App.

6.2. How do you rate the usefulness of the Conference App?



64% of participants rated the App as good/excellent.

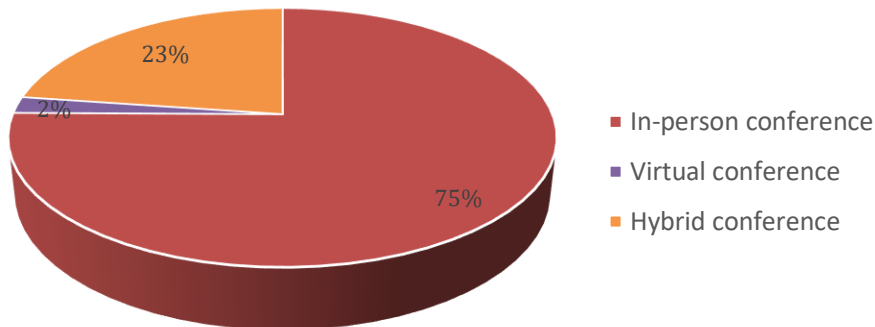
6.3. Did you follow EPH2023 on social media (LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter))?



Only 31% of participants followed EPH2023 on social media.

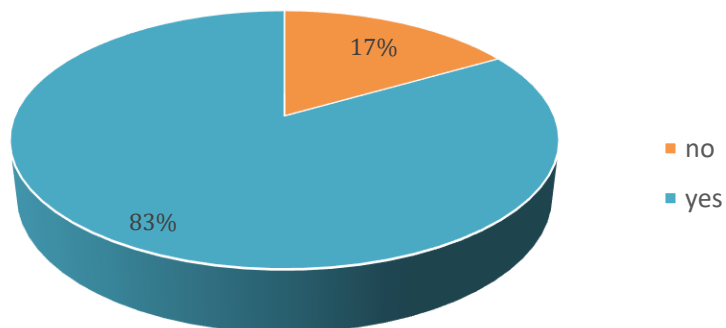
7. Plans for the future

7.1. What sort of future public health conference would have your preference?



75% of participants will prefer an in-person conference.

7.2. Do you have plans to attend the EPH Conference in 2023?



83% of respondents plan to attend EPH Conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

7.3. Comments

Some comments emphasized that the research presented should be relevant to the theme of the conference. Other comments asked for exclusively vegetarian lunches. Finally: EPH Conference is an annual must-see appointment.